

# Clean Water Act §106 Water Pollution Control Program Water Quality Assessment Report Requirement (FY 2008)

*A Water Quality Assessment is a narrative and graphical account of the grant recipient's annual assessment of water quality within tribal boundaries. The assessment includes the types of water sampled, sampling procedures, and resulting data summaries. The tribal water quality program should also describe in detail the program's interpretation of the data collected and the assessment methodology used.*

*Tribal assessments should vary amongst tribes due to program goals and objectives, sophistication, and resources available. This reporting requirement will help EPA measure success toward improvement of water quality in tribal waters. Water quality assessments must be submitted annually to grantee's assigned EPA Project Officer.*



Alternate watering source for cattle at Washoe Tribe of NV and CA

## Components of a Water Quality Assessment Report:

- **An atlas table of tribal water resources:** This atlas should include the estimated number of stream miles, lake acres, wetland acres, or estuarine square miles within tribal boundaries.
- **A narrative description of tribal water quality monitoring programs and assessment methods:**
  - Purpose of monitoring program
  - Number of stream miles/lake or wetland acres/estuary square miles monitored
  - Parameters monitored
  - Monitoring frequency
  - Discussion of any applicable Water Quality Indicators (WQI), tribal goals and objectives, or standards
  - Coordination or collaboration with other organizations
  - Any lab support
  - How data are interpreted and managed
- **Narrative description of results of water quality monitoring within tribal boundaries:** This is an interpretation and summary of the findings of tribal monitoring activities, including probable causes and sources of impairment. Depending on program sophistication, summary tables should be included to show which water bodies meet tribal goals or designated uses.
- **Brief discussion of issues of tribal concern regarding water quality:** This discussion should identify any issues of special concern or potential future impacts to the water bodies on which the monitoring program is occurring. Examples include: outbreaks of waterborne disease, fish kills, fishing advisories, various restrictions, etc. As a program becomes more advanced, tables should be developed to summarize various sources of impairment by stream miles.
- **Monitoring data submitted electronically for each assessed water body:** The monitoring data should be submitted electronically in STORET-compatible format as a part of the assessment report. Depending on program relevancy and sophistication, all required parameters per the CWA Section 106 Guidance should be reported within the data set.

### Available Resources to use while developing a Water Quality Assessment Report:

- **Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act:**
  - **Appendix A:** Includes a suggested format for developing a Monitoring Assessment divided into Fundamental, Intermediate, and Mature programs, along with descriptions of each required component.
  - **Chapter 4:** Includes more detailed information regarding monitoring objectives, monitoring design, the required WQI/parameters, data analysis and data assessment.
  - **Chapter 8:** Describes EPA's reporting requirements in detail for the awards of CWA Section 106 grants to Indian Tribes.
- **STORET Data Template and Website:** [www.epa.gov/storet](http://www.epa.gov/storet) provides a link for tribal water quality programs for transitioning into the data management portion of the assessment report. Also the website provides access to the national STORET helpline for various questions a grant recipient may have regarding the use of STORET.
- **EPA Region 9 Office / CWA § 106 Assigned Project Officer**

#### Water Division Tribal Contacts

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\*To contact this person, you must dial 711 for an operator to assist you with your call.